

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1965

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Atherton Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor P. JONES

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor G. FIRTH

Councillors:

L. COOP	H. JONES	H. H. SHARLAND
E. DONOGHUE	W. MURPHY	J. SUMNER
F. FILDES	R. SHAW	C. URMSTON
W. GOULDEN	R. D. HODGKISS	W. WILLIAMS
H. GREENHALGH	A. HOLLIDAY	
O. P. ALEXANDER	J. STIRZAKER	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

**THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.),
Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection**

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

ALAN JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I.—Resigned 31.7.1965

EDWARD BLACK, M.A.P.H.I.—Resigned 30.6.1965

ERIC WATT, M.A.P.H.I.—Appointed 18.10.1965

PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

W. S. GARSIDE

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT—CLEAN AIR:

T. BLAKELEY

CLERICAL ASSISTANT:

MRS. S. CONNELLY

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

The Registrar General's estimated population was 19,990, an increase of 470 since 1964. Whilst there was a natural increase of births over deaths, the latest population figure clearly reflects the arrival of new residents into the privately developed property in the district. The birth rate of 19.1 is higher than the recent average whilst the death rate at 12.0 is similarly lower.

There were no maternal deaths and the still birth and infantile mortality rates were both greatly improved on 1964. The pattern of the main causes of death remained the same, i.e., heart disease and vascular accidents in the nervous system accounted for more than half the total, cancer in various sites was responsible for about one seventh and respiratory illness for one tenth.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease called for no comment.

During the year, the even tenor of the work in the department was interrupted by the resignation of two public health inspectors within a month, but nevertheless by ready co-operation of colleagues in my neighbouring authorities, it was just possible to maintain the standard of meat inspection at the two slaughterhouses. During the period when staff was at strength, it was possible to represent some 113 unfit houses in clearance areas and inaugurate the No. 2 Smoke Control Area. This Council was one of the few authorities in the North West that determined to pursue its enlightened Clean Air policy in spite of many pressures brought to bear against it.

Refuse disposal and control was beset with some difficulties and frustration but the service was never seriously interrupted and tipping continued on the Swan Island site.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,
E. TAYLOR



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SECTION A

Statistics



SECTION A

STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area in acres—2,265.

Population—

1961 Census—19,755.

Mid-1965 Estimate—19,990.

Number of inhabited houses—7,109.

Rateable Value—£511,986 at 31st December, 1965.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£1,950 at 31st December, 1965.

Vital Statistics

Live Births:—				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	179	175	354
Illegitimate	...	...	...	9	4	13
Total				188	179	367

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 19.1

Still Births:—				Males	Females	Total
				3	4	7

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) 18.7

Deaths—All Causes:—				Males	Females	Total
				141	136	277

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 13.9

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 12

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil

Infant Deaths 10

Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) 27.2

Neo-Natal Deaths 7

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 19.1

Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) 29.4

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS

	*Live Births			Stillbirths			*Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Neo-Natal	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1965 ...	367	19.1	7	18.7	277	12	Nil	Nil	10	27.2	7	19.1		
Year 1964	339	17.4	11	31.4	267	13.7	Nil	Nil	12	35.4	9	26.5		
Year 1963	338	17.7	8	23.1	286	14.1	Nil	Nil	9	26.6	6	17.8		
Year 1962	358	18.1	7	19.2	316	15.9	Nil	Nil	8	22.3	5	14		
Year 1961	321	16.2	14	41.8	280	14.6	Nil	Nil	9	28	7	21.8		
Year 1960	327	16.5	9	26.8	251	12.7	Nil	Nil	7	21.4	5	15.3		
Ave. 5 years: 1960/64	334.6	17.18	9.8	28.46	280	14.2	Nil	Nil	9	26.74	6.4	19.8		

Live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.04)

Death rate (comparability factor, 0.87)

TABLE II

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1965

Registrar General's Return

CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	...
Syphilitic Disease .....	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	...	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	7	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	10
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	...
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	27
Coronary Disease, Angina	36	17
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	...	...
Other Heart Disease	25	30
Other Circulatory Disease	9	3
Influenza	2	...
Pneumonia	3	9
Bronchitis	6	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	...	...
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	...
Congenital Malformations	2	...
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	14	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All other Accidents	2	7
Suicide .....	...	...
Homicide and operations of war	1	...
TOTAL	141	136

TABLE III
VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1965.
(Provisional figures based on Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1965—47,762,800.

Births	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
Live Births	864,000	18.1
Stillbirths	13,800	0.29
		15.7 (a)
Deaths		
All Causes	549,320	11.5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2,282	0.048
Respiratory	2,008	0.042
Non-Respiratory	274	0.006
Cancer (all forms)	106,338	2.23
Lung and bronchus	26,399	0.55
Other cancer	79,939	1.67
Maternal mortality (total)	219	0.25 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	166	0.19 (a)
Due to abortion	53	0.06 (a)
Infant mortality	16,414	19.0 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	11,200	13.0 (b)
Early neo-natal mortality	9,806	11.3 (b)
Perinatal mortality	23,606	26.9 (a)
Notifications (corrected)		
Typhoid fever	136	0.003
Paratyphoid fever	832	0.017
Meningococcal infection	406	0.009
Scarlet fever	26,725	0.560
Whooping cough	12,903	0.270
Diphtheria	26	0.001
Erysipelas	1,757	0.037
Smallpox	—	Nil
Measles	509,909	10.676
Acute pneumonia	7,980	0.167
Acute poliomyelitis—Paralytic	55	0.001
Non-paralytic ...	36	0.001
Acute encephalitis—Infective	97	0.002
Post-infectious ...	71	0.001
Dysentery	26,175	0.548
Food poisoning	5,002	0.105
Puerperal pyrexia	5,189	0.109
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	13,552	0.284
Meninges & C.N.S. ...	146	0.003
Other	2,404	0.050
Anthrax	4	0.000

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births. (b) Per 1,000 live births.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

SECTION B

HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance

Atherton Ambulance Station, Back Orchard Lane. Tel. Swinton 4343.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer: Miss J. L. Edwards, B.A., Williams Deacons Bank Chambers, Leigh. Tel. Leigh 72206.

1. ANTE-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

2. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

(i) Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon for other than poliomyelitis.

(ii) Poliomyelitis (Oral Vaccine) Thursday mornings, 9-30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

(iii) General Practitioner Service.

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

4. OPHTHALMIC

Alder House Clinic, by appointment.

Each Tuesday morning.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley, by appointment.

Second Thursday mornings of each month.

6. POST-NATAL

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 11 a.m.

7. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday mornings.

8. SPEECH THERAPY

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

9. CHEST CLINIC

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

10. VENEREAL DISEASES

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.

Males: Monday to Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

Females: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4-30 to 7 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.

Males: Friday, 2 to 6-30 p.m.

Females: Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m.

(iii) Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

Males and Females: Monday, 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Also Fridays only at Alder House Clinic.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses employed by the Lancashire C.C. are available in the district.

Hospitals

1. GENERAL

Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.

2. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton; Whelley Hospital, Wigan.

3. MATERNITY

Billinge Hospital, Bilinge.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Board Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Midwifery Service

Domiciliary midwives employed whole-time in the area by Lancashire C.C.

Nursing Homes

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancashire C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C.

Residential accommodation under Divisional arrangements.

X-ray Facilities

At Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C

Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other Diseases

SECTION C

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

No notified cases of diphtheria, but the facilities for immunisation are still available.

Dysentery

No cases notified for the year, three suspected cases proved negative.

Erysipelas

Three cases notified for the year.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning notified for the year.

Malaria

No notifications received.

Measles

A total of 89 cases notified for the year, being a decrease on the two previous years (429 and 286 respectively).

Meningococcal Infection

No notifications received.

Paratyphoid Fever

No cases during the year.

Pneumonia

Four cases of primary and influenzal pneumonia notified for the year, one infant and three over 65 years of age.

Poliomyelitis

There were no notifications of this disease for the year, and oral vaccine is obtainable and administered at the Alder House Clinic.

Puerperal Pyrexia

No notified cases of this disease for the year.

Scarlet Fever

Twelve cases notified for the year.

Smallpox

No cases or contacts in the area.

Tuberculosis

Four cases of respiratory tuberculosis, three were male and one female, reported for the year.

One female non-respiratory reported.

Typhoid Fever

No cases and no notifications received.

Whooping Cough

No notifications received for the year.

TABLE IV

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1965

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												
	Total Cases at all ages	Years											
		Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles, excl. German Measles	89	10	11	16	16	21	13	2	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	—	1	—	2	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—													
Males	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Females	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—													
Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	113	11	12	17	18	24	19	3	—	—	4	2	3

TABLE V

Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years

Year	Birth rate	Death-rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	14	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	29	...	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	34	...	5	...	...	24	...	1	55	...	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	15	...	6	...	...	36	...	...	88	...	19	3
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	13	...	9	...	...	44	...	...	100	...	7	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	9	...	2	...	...	15	...	...	49	...	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	3	...	1	...	...	8	...	...	52	...	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	5	...	...	6	...	...	42	...	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	1	...	3	...	...	9	...	...	37	...	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	5	...	...	8	...	...	88	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	2	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	49	...	...	...
1943	18.2	12.8	...	74	12	2	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	70	...	...	...
1944	16.29	11.86	...	60	8	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	42	...	...	...
1945	17.9	11.3	...	23	2	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	22	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	79	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	104	...	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
1954	13.7	11.8	12.6	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	27	...	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	14.0	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	22	...	...	...
1956	15.2	12.8	14.3	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	9	...	...	...
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	46	...	...	...
1958	16.5	14.3	14.3	18.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	19	...	...	...
1959	15.6	15.4	15.1	6.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	31	...	...	...
1960	16.5	12.7	12.7	21.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	29	...	...	...
1961	16.2	14.1	14.6	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
1962	18.1	15.9	15.3	22.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	...	...
1963	17.7	14.4	14.1	26.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
1964	17.4	13.7	14.1	35.4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
1965	19.1	13.9	12.0	27.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...

SECTION D

Sanitary Circumstances
of the Area

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking is the authority responsible for the water supply to the town, and all households are connected to this supply; there being no private wells in the area. The supply has been well maintained throughout the year in quality, pressure and sufficiency. Minor interruptions, due to burst or repair, that have occurred were not of sufficient duration to present any health hazard.

Water samples taken by the Health Department throughout the year and submitted for analysis have obtained satisfactory reports.

Streams

The eight watercourses that flow through the town receive sewer storm water overflow, but are regularly checked so as to meet the requirements of Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961. The amount of colliery washing water has reduced with the closing of pits in the area. The bricks, debris and assortment of articles that are so wantonly disposed of into these streams, whilst not constituting a public health hazard, do present an unsightly appearance, and it is to be regretted that people are not more civic conscious.

Drainage and Sewerage

The town's sewerage is mainly the combined system and covers the whole town, with some exceptions, which are adequately serviced by their own septic tank disposal or pumped via rising mains to the public sewers. The trend is that storm water and foul drainage should be separate on all newly developed sites. Byelaws requiring this have recently been confirmed in accordance with Section 157 of the Highways Act, 1959, as extended by Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1961.

The sewage is dealt with by the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewage Works, which is situated on the Leigh-Atherton boundary.

Sanitary Accommodation

At the end of 1965 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows:

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	1
Number of Trough Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets	293
Number of Freshwater Closets	8,099
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of Moveable Ashbins	7,380
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	7,089

Conversions during 1965:

Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh-water Closets	47
Number of Waste Water Closets Demolished	59

The scheme for the allowance towards the cost of conversion of waste water closets to the freshwater flush closets continues and as a further inducement to carry out conversions the grant has been raised from £9 to £11 per conversion. The standard grant improvement scheme is also available for this purpose, and both these methods, coupled with demolitions in Clearance Areas, make steady, albeit slow, progress in reducing the number of waste water closets.

Disinfestation

The Public Health Department deal with and carry out all the disinfestation and disinfection. D.D.T./Malathion residual sprays are used and are found to be very effective. There were three privately owned dwellings and two Council house dwellings treated during the year. Cotton factories and food establishments are dealt with on a service charge basis.

Movement of families from houses dealt with by way of slum clearance is closely watched and infested articles are done away with by mutual agreement.

Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of house refuse is carried out under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

One Pakamatic and three side-loading vehicles operate on four districts of the town. A weekly collection service operates, but sickness, breakdown of vehicles, and seasonal holidays cause disruptions, but the backlog is energetically tackled and overcome as quickly as possible on resuming work.

Tipping is carried out at Swan Island Quarry and controlled by use of a mechanical shovel, using clay spoil available at the quarry.

Waste paper is salvaged and baled at the Depot, reducing bulky combustible material from the tip and bringing an income of £1,751 for the year.

Factories and Workplaces

Inspections covering health, welfare and sanitary accommodation continued throughout the year and, coupled with satisfactory liaison with the H.M. Factory Inspectorate and their observations, it can be said that reasonable standards are maintained.

Management are conscious of their responsibilities in this field and no great amount of resistance is met in meeting reasonable demands of the Inspector in compliance with the regulations. Some of the older factories are of course difficult to rejuvenate.

Table VI of the Factories Act, 1961, is appended.

TABLE VI
FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	21	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	71	83	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises	3	5	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	83	99	5	—
	—	—	—	—

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found	Abated	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	2	2	—
Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	1	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective .	13	12	3
Other Offences against the Act	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	24	22	3
	—	—	—

Rodent Control

Throughout the year the services of the rodent operator were constantly applied to the varying demands of householders, factories and sewer infestations.

Application from householders at the Health Department for the services of this operator is met immediately and is frequently coupled with the advice and technical knowledge of the Public Health Inspector in determining the source of the infestation. The operator is fully trained to the standards of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Household complaints are dealt with free of charge but a labour and material charge is levied upon business or industry. Quite a number of the latter avail of a monthly contract rodent control service.

Warfarin surface bait and sewer bags are in use and to date there is no evidence of Warfarin resistance.

The half yearly sewer treatment was carried out in accordance with directives and reports duly submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths is owned and controlled by the Council. It is situated near the centre of the town and adjacent to the major bus stops. For most of the year it is open on seven days per week and is well patronised on most days.

The water supply is the town mains supply water and the plunge is 75 feet long and 30 feet wide, holding some 76,000 gallons.

The turnover period is about three hours, the water being continuous flow is sand pressure filtered and chlorine dosage to a break point chloridation of two parts per million.

The baths superintendent makes daily dosage tests and recordings and water sampled for bacteriological examination has proven satisfactory.

The schools in the area use the baths as part of their educational curriculum.

Schools

There are eleven schools in the town, covering the various denominations and age groups, with a large new school in building in the centre of the town.

Main drainage is available at all the schools with a standard of toilet facilities that varies with the age and siting of them. Some very modern units exist and the older outworn structures are being dealt with as priorities are determined.

Drinking water, washing facilities, cloak room accommodation and playground area vary with the space available to provide these essentials.

School meals and school milk services functioned without mishap during the year and all other health services were maintained by the Health and Welfare Staff from the Alder House Clinic.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trade establishments in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings

There are no houses let in lodgings, nor any lodging houses in the district.

Rag Flock Act

One shop only is registered under this Act, and the wider use of modern synthetic products affords a greater measure of control.

TABLE VII

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY Non-Agricultural			(4) Agricultural
	(1) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(2) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(3) Total of Cols. (1) & (2)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	7,109	1,351	8,460	12
II. Number of properties inspected	126	161	287	3
III. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections	149	183	332	4
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Section II) which were found to be infested by:				—
(a) Rats	—	—	—	2
{ Major	84	133	217	—
{ Minor	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice	42	28	70	3
V. Number of infested properties treated	126	161	287	2
VI. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments	131	169	300	—
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				—
(a) Treatment	—	—	Nil	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	Nil	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	Nil	—
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	Nil	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	Nil	—

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision
of Food

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Places under Inspection

The number of food premises, by type of business, at end of 1965 were as follows:

Grocers	89
Bakers	18
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream), etc.	40
Fried Fish Shops	17
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	21
Greengrocers	9
Fishmongers	5
Canteens Snack Bars and Licensed Premises	49
Others	3

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, include:—

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections during 1965
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit and Vegetables	5	11
„ Meat and Meat Products ...	3	8
Bakehouses	15	34
Fried Fish Shops	17	22
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	3	11
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises ...	16	23
Ice Cream Shops	56	63

Food Premises

Throughout the year visits and inspections were maintained on food shops, ancillary stores used for the storage of foodstuffs and wholesale warehouses.

Constant and regular visits are essential if a high standard of manufacture and production is to be maintained. Mechanical and human failings can cause food to be at risk and such personal aspects as failing to wash the hands after toilet usage, a cut septic finger left undressed, or worse, by having a badly soiled and unsuitable dressing or an infection that is trying to be passed off as “nothing”. These things have a real significance in the hygienic production and handling of food.

Incidents involving foreign bodies found in food are dealt with by way of report from the Health Department to the Food & Drugs Officers of the Lancashire County Council. These Officers collect the material from the department, cause tests to be made and action to be taken against the offenders in collaboration with this authority.

These same officers are also responsible for enforcing the provision of the Food & Drugs Act relating to food samples, adulteration and labelling of food; and in this connection em-

bodied in this report are particulars of such sampling taken in the district throughout the year.

No statutory proceedings were instituted against owners or occupiers of premises, but letters were sent out for improvement in structural conditions, cleansing and decorating, lighting and other aspects, in the continuous process of achieving the highest possible standard for such an important side of the Department's work affecting the public.

Slaughterhouses

The slaughtering of cattle and sheep was carried out continually throughout the year at the two privately owned slaughterhouses in the district. They operate on a six day week basis and a detail of the numbers slaughtered is shown in this report.

All carcase meat is inspected and marked in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, there being a Meat Inspector on duty every day of the week.

Of the two slaughterhouses, one is a large modern concern and the other is being further developed under new management. The former is licensed to kill Irish imported cattle and slaughters some 40 per week of these.

Of a total of 13,333 beasts slaughtered at both establishments, some 30 beasts were condemned as unfit for human consumption, due to varying diseases from septic pericarditis, oedema and emaciation to extensive bruising and other well-defined diseases.

The absence of tuberculosis is such that a carcase which was macroscopically defined as tuberculosis was after submission to the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food determined microscopically to be carcinoma.

The details of all animals slaughtered and inspected during the year are shown herewith.

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Slaughtered	4590	8743	55	13956	1005
No. Inspected	4590	8743	55	13956	1005
All Diseases other than T.B.					
Whole Carcases condemned	2	28	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1877	3029	—	1491	122
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	40.9	34.9	—	11	12.2
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned (Irish)	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	5	2	—	—	—
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Milk Supply

The County Council is the authority for the issue of licences to produce or sell milk, but the local authority are responsible for the register in their district.

This being a designated area all milk sold is treated (pasteurised or sterilised) while milk from tuberculin tested cattle is sold as untreated.

The County Council are responsible for the organisation and supply of the school milk service.

Sampling and testing of milk is done by the local authority and the County Council. The County Council Sampling Officers examine milk for chemical analysis and the result of their findings is shown in the list of Food and Drugs samples taken by those Officers.

The results of samples taken locally are:

(a) Raw Milk:

(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—

No. of samples 5. No. positive nil. No. negative 5.

(ii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 5. No. satisfactory 5. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" Milk:

(i) Phosphatase Test—

No. of samples 8. No. satisfactory 8. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(ii) Turbidity Test—

No. of samples 8. No. satisfactory 8. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 8. No. satisfactory 8. No. unsatisfactory nil.

Food Inspection

The inspection and condemnation of foodstuffs is mainly by way of voluntary surrender by the merchant concerned, there being no foods seized as food being sold which was unfit for human consumption.

Instances did occur of food sold containing foreign bodies or of being of unsound nature and these were duly dealt with in reporting to the County Food & Drugs Officers. Court action or otherwise depended on the result of their findings.

Quantities of food condemned is given as:

Fruit	109 tins—178 lbs.
Meats (corned beef, tongue, etc.	79 tins—183 lbs.
Vegetables	46 tins— 33 lbs.
Others (fish, tomatoes, etc.) ...	161 tins—147 lbs.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

A total of 93 samples was obtained, comprising 53 milks (5 of which were Channel Island milks) and 40 others as follows:

1 Cooking Fat	1 Cream, Sterilised
1 Canned Meat with Gravy and Stuffing	1 Braised Beef, Frozen
1 Cake Mixture, Sweetened	1 Pickles
1 Canned Meat	1 Cold Capsules
1 Malt Vinegar	1 Gelusil Tablets
1 Gravy Browning	1 Ferraplex B. Tablets
1 Barley	1 Minced Meat
1 Whole Wheat Flour	2 Milk, Condensed, Full Cream, Unsweetened
1 Fruit, Canned	1 Cheese and Onion Pie
1 Cocoa	2 Table Jelly
1 White Pepper	1 Borax B.P.
1 Throat Drops	1 Saccharin Tablets
1 Sulphur Tablets	1 Arrowroot
1 Phenoxymethyl Penicillin Tablets	1 Cod Liver Oil B.P.
1 Orange Crush	1 Effervescent Aspirin Tablets
1 Portion of Meat and Potato Pasty	1 Christmas Tree Decorations, Edible
1 Tincture of Iodine B.P.	2 Soup Mixture, Dry
1 Cooling Powders	1 Soup, Canned
1 Margarine	

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Cooking Fat	Consisted of Lard	None advised
1 Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.5% extraneous water	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained
1 Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.0% extraneous water	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained
1 Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.3% extraneous water	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained
1 Portion of Meat and potato pasty	Contained part of a ground beetle (carabidae), a beetle not associated with stored food	Complainant informed and bakery cautioned by the County Public Health Officer
1 Tincture of Iodine B.P.	Potassium iodine content only 2.1%. B.P. limits 2.4% to 2.7%	Manufacturer communicated with.

SECTION F

Housing

SECTION F

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Local Authority	78	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	268	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	386
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	535
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number dealt with during the year	29
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	71
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	281

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957 and 1961):—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:	
(a) Unfit houses	113
(b) Other houses	—
(2) Number of persons displaced	252
(3) Families	107

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses	No. of persons displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:— Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	2	5
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

*No. of
houses

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	81
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	3
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):— Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	—
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

4. **Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—**

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

*A defective house remedied more than once during the year is included once only.

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority	14	14
(b) Approved by Local Authority	6	6
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry	—	—
(d) Approved by the Ministry	—	—
(e) Works completed (1964 and 1965)	14	14

**House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959—
Standard Grants—**

	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Applications submitted to L.A.	81
(b) Applications approved by L.A.	76
(c) Work completed	53
(Includes approvals in 1964 and work completed in 1965).	

General Inspections

Houses (including re-visits)	1002
Schools	11
Factories and workplaces	105
Bakehouses	242
Food preparing premises and shops	226
Miscellaneous, etc.	394
Slaughter-houses	3
Inspectorial	771
	<hr/> 2754 <hr/>

In connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs in need of repair	93	92
Defective W.C.s	87	83
Choked or defective drains	31	31
Insanitary conditions of yards	2	2
Defective plaster on walls, etc.	85	81
House walls damp	90	81
Defective eaves gutters	31	29
Defective windows, etc.	34	27
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	1	1
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, etc.)	78	72
	<hr/> 532 <hr/>	<hr/> 499 <hr/>

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:

Informal	130
Statutory	10

GENERAL—Conditions and Observations

Atherton is a northern industrial town of some 2,200 acres, having a population of 19,990; 7,109 dwelling houses and a rateable value of £511,986.

The main industries of the town remain cotton spinning, nuts and bolts manufacturing, light engineering, and Lancashire United Transport undertaking. With the closure of the last remaining coal mine during 1966, there will cease a long association of mining in the district. Expansion of existing industries and the attraction of new ones continues to keep the town industrious.

The activities in the sphere of housing remain vigorous. Unfit houses dealt with in clearance areas numbered 113 and in the new building programme the local authority completed 78 houses and private enterprise created 268 dwelling on various estates throughout the town. Many of these latter houses attracted people from outside the district to come and reside in Atherton. New shops and supermarkets replacing the older, worn out premises, provide the necessary facilities for the shopping public and an elevation of the standards required under the various legislation.

A number of the older properties lack the amenities of hot water, bath and flush sanitation, but there are also a number that have benefited from the improvement grant scheme.

The Council continues to construct new Council houses and there are now over 2,400 such houses. Private development has also been quite active in the year under review.

The No. 2 Smoke Control Area became operative on the 1st January, 1966, an area embracing some 800 dwelling houses. The Council further resolved to continue its programme and authorised the survey for the bringing in to operation its No. 3 Smoke Control Area. The continuance of this health measure, albeit its slowness of progress, is both necessary and essential if benefit is going to be obtained for the township as a whole.

SECTION G

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement

SECTION G

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

Atmospheric Pollution

During the year under review a public inquiry was held into the proposed introduction of the No. 2 Smoke Control Area. This is an area of over 800 dwellings in the West Ward of the town and is contiguous with the existing No. 1 zone. The promulgation of the inquiry was the confirmation of the order and the operative date was declared as the 1st January, 1966. This gives a total of over 1,000 houses in smoke control areas and constitutes a most useful basis for the introduction of further zones. The Council therefore resolved that survey should commence during 1966 of the No. 3 zone, which is an area covering some 940 houses and a considerable amount of industry.

The Council still participates in the National Survey by taking daily readings and records from two atmospheric pollution stations in the town and these readings are submitted to the technological officers of the D.S.I.R. at Warren Springs Laboratory, for inclusion in their statistical information reports.

In this field of environmental health it is satisfying to know that progress, although slow, is steadily making headway towards the goal of clean air for all.

A table showing the average daily amount of pollution is appended.

Average daily amounts of pollution in microgrammes per cubic metre of air				
Air Borne Particles		Acid Gas		
	Town Hall	Parks Garage	Town Hall	Parks Garage
January	289	317	234	125
February	196	268	219	110
March	140	254	240	161
April	56	131	156	195
May	78	145	122	108
June	25	70	97	80
July	86	71	66	55
August	150	103	90	74
September	215	200	142	70
October	263	258	203	158
November	274	349	220	167
December	232	295	347	103

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